

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Kevin Brady
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady,

We urge you to hold an immediate, full committee hearing on prescription drug pricing. As you know, the Committee on Ways & Means has jurisdiction over many areas of law that could be effectively used to address prescription drug prices for families across the nation.

The pricing of pharmaceutical drugs has dramatic repercussions for hardworking American families. A serious health diagnosis is a terrible health care tragedy. In those times of sadness and stress, families should not have to be worried about how they will afford the prescription drugs their loved ones need, which can lead to financial hardship when the cost of some drugs may total more than \$100,000 a year.

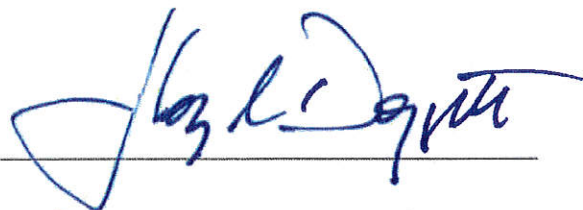
As we aim to manage health care costs across all sectors, we remain concerned about the growing cost of prescription drugs. Nationwide expenditures on prescription drugs rose more than 13 percent in 2014, reaching a total of \$374 billion. Medicare alone spends more than \$120 billion annually.

A recent decision by Turing Pharmaceutical to increase the cost of a drug, which helps people with weakened immune systems, from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill deservedly garnered significant public outrage. Medical experts called this increase “unjustified” and “unsustainable.” Under

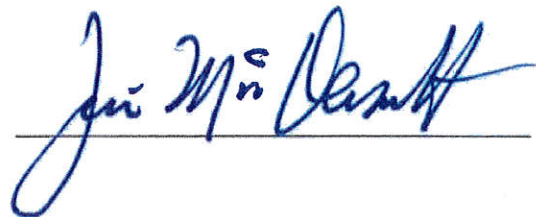
public pressure, the owner of the drug now announced it would be lowering the cost of the drug to some unspecified amount— raising troubling questions about why this pricing decision was made in the first place. We believe that the Committee can play a valuable role in being responsive to the American people's serious concerns about drug prices and a hearing is an important first step.

Meaningful action to end unfair drug pricing is long overdue and a hearing is necessary to assess how we can address this issue. We look forward to working with you on this vital matter.

Sincerely,



Jay L. Byrnes



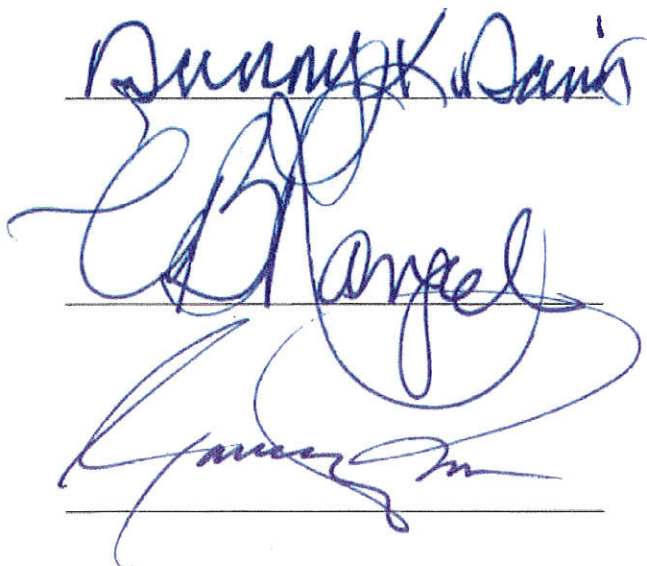
Jim M. Blum



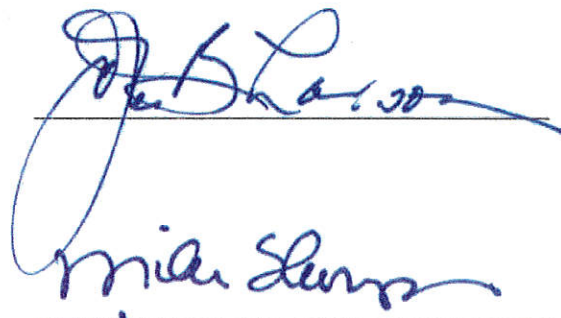
Earl Blumenauer



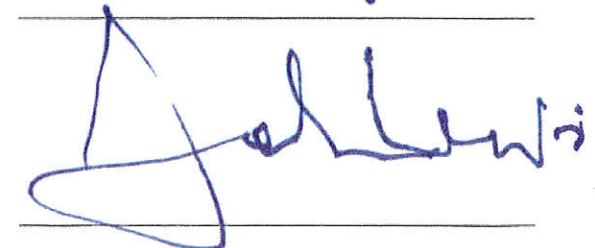
Bill Pascrell



Anthony D'Amico



Peter LaSore



Mike Levin